

Claims

1. An AV apparatus capable of transmitting or receiving information to and from any other AV apparatus via a bus, <sup>comprising</sup> ~~characterized in that it is provided with a means~~ for transmitting information to request storage of apparatus use information to any other AV apparatus to which transmission, or from which reception, of information via said bus is intended.

2. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim 1, <sup>further comprising</sup> ~~characterized in that it is provided with a means~~ for setting apparatus use information to <sup>effect</sup> ~~have~~ transmission or reception of video information or audio information to or from any other AV apparatus ~~accomplished~~ in a desired period of time.

3. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim 1 or 2, <sup>further comprising</sup> ~~characterized in that it is provided with a means~~ for storing said apparatus use information.

4. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim 1, 2 or 3, <sup>further comprising</sup> ~~characterized in that it is provided with a means~~ for receiving, in response to said request for storage, information transmitted from <sup>another</sup> ~~said other~~ apparatus via said bus on whether or not said apparatus use information can be stored.

5. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim 1, 2 or 3, <sup>further comprising</sup> ~~characterized in that it is provided with a means~~ for

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receiving, in response to said request for storage,

A apparatus use information on <sup>another</sup> ~~said other~~ AV apparatus transmitted from said other apparatus via said bus.

A 6. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim ~~4~~ or 5,

A <sup>further comprising</sup> ~~characterized in that it is provided with a~~ means for transmitting, when said other AV apparatus can store said apparatus use information, said apparatus use information to said other AV apparatus via said bus.

A 7. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim ~~4, 5~~ or 6, characterized in that it is provided with a means for transmitting information on whether or not said other AV apparatus can store said apparatus use information to a display means, <sup>to</sup> ~~and said display means~~ display said information on whether or not storage is possible.

A 8. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in <sup>CLAIM</sup> ~~any one of Claims~~

A <sup>further comprising</sup> ~~1 through 5, characterized in that it is provided with a~~  
A means for transmitting to <sup>another</sup> ~~said other~~ AV apparatus via said  
A bus ~~said~~ apparatus use information together with ~~said~~ information to request storage.

A 9. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in <sup>CLAIM</sup> ~~any one of Claims~~

A <sup>further comprising</sup> ~~4 through 8, characterized in that it is provided with a~~  
means for transmitting to said other AV apparatus via said bus, when said other AV apparatus cannot store said apparatus use information, information to request

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transmission of apparatus use information conflicting with said apparatus use information.

*A* 10. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim 9, ~~characterized in that it is provided with a means for~~ <sup>further comprising</sup> receiving said conflicting apparatus use information from said other AV apparatus via said bus.

11. An AV apparatus, as stated in any one of Claims 9 or 10, characterized in that it is provided with a means for transmitting said conflicting apparatus use information to the display means, and said display means displays said conflicting apparatus use information.

*A* 12. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim 9, 10 or 11, ~~characterized in that it is provided with a means for~~ <sup>further comprising</sup> deciding, when information that storage is impossible has been received, which of conflicting sets of apparatus use information is to be given priority.

*A* 13. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in ~~any one of Claims~~ <sup>claim</sup> ~~3 or 12,~~ <sup>further comprising</sup> ~~characterized in that it is provided with a means~~ *A* ~~for reading said apparatus use information out of the means~~ *A* ~~to store said apparatus use information, and a means for~~ altering the apparatus use information that has been read out.

14. An AV apparatus capable of transmitting or receiving information to or from any other AV apparatus via a bus <sup>comprising</sup> ~~characterized in that it is provided with means to~~ *A*

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A determine whether or not <sup>a</sup> ~~such~~ use as is indicated in  
A apparatus use information transmitted from <sup>another</sup> ~~said other~~ AV  
A apparatus via said bus, or on intended transmission or  
reception of video information or audio signals with said  
A other AV apparatus, is possible.

A 15. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim 14,  
<sup>further comprising</sup> ~~characterized in that it is provided with a means for~~  
A storing ~~said~~ apparatus use information, and, if the use of  
the apparatus indicated by said apparatus use information  
is possible, the apparatus use information transmitted from  
A <sup>the</sup> ~~said~~ other AV apparatus is stored.

A 16. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in any one of Claims  
<sup>further comprising</sup> ~~14 or 15, characterized in that it is provided with a means~~  
for transmitting, if the use of the apparatus indicated by  
said apparatus use information is impossible, information  
indicating the impossibility to use to said other AV  
apparatus via said bus.

A 17. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim 16,  
characterized in that the means for transmitting said  
A information indicating the impossibility to use <sup>also</sup> ~~transmits~~  
information indicating the reason for the impossibility to  
use together with said information indicating the  
impossibility to use.

A 18. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in <sup>claim</sup> ~~Claims 15, 16 or~~  
<sup>further comprising</sup> ~~17, characterized in that it is provided with a means for~~

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A reading ~~said~~ apparatus use information out of means for  
A storing apparatus use information, and ~~a~~ means for altering  
the apparatus use information that has been read out.

A 19. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated in any one of Claim~~  
A 18, <sup>further comprising</sup> ~~characterized in that it is provided with a means for~~  
A transmitting ~~said~~ apparatus use information that has been  
read out to a display means, and

the display means reads out said apparatus use  
information.

A 20. An AV apparatus, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated in any one of Claims~~  
<sup>claim</sup> ~~1 through 19~~, characterized in that the information to  
request storage of said apparatus use information is  
information containing at least the starting time of said  
other AV apparatus and the ending time of the intended use  
of said other AV apparatus.

21. A method for apparatus use characterized in that,  
out of at least two bus-connected AV apparatuses, a first  
AV apparatus requests via said bus a second AV apparatus,  
intending to transmit or receive video information or audio  
information, to store apparatus use information indicating  
the intention to use the second AV apparatus, and

said second AV apparatus determines whether or not the  
use indicated by said apparatus use information is  
possible.

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22. A method for apparatus use characterized in that, out of at least two bus-connected AV apparatuses, a first AV apparatus requests via said bus a second AV apparatus, intending to transmit or receive video information or audio information, to store apparatus use information indicating the intention to use the second AV apparatus,

said second AV apparatus transmits to said first AV apparatus via said bus the apparatus use information it already has, and

said first AV apparatus determines, on the basis of said apparatus use information and apparatus use information transmitted from said second AV apparatus, whether or not the use by said second AV apparatus on the basis of said apparatus use information is possible.

23. A method for apparatus use, as claimed in Claim 21 or 22, characterized in that, if the use by said second AV apparatus as indicated by said apparatus use information is possible, said first AV apparatus transmits said apparatus use information via said bus to said second AV apparatus.

24. A method for apparatus use, as claimed in Claim 23, characterized in that, if the use by said second AV apparatus as indicated by said apparatus use information is possible, said first AV apparatus and said second AV apparatus store said apparatus use information.

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25. A method for apparatus use, as claimed in Claim 21 or 22, characterized in that, if the use by said second AV apparatus as indicated by said apparatus use information is impossible, said second AV apparatus transmits, via said bus to said first AV apparatus, information indicating that the use indicated by said apparatus use information is impossible.

26. A method for apparatus use, as claimed in Claim 21 or 22, characterized in that, if the use by said other AV apparatus as indicated by said apparatus use information is impossible, said second AV apparatus transmits, via said bus to said first AV apparatus, apparatus use information constituting the cause for the impossibility to use as indicated by said apparatus use information together with information indicating the impossibility to use as indicated by said apparatus use information.

27. A method for apparatus use as claimed in Claim A 26, characterized in that ~~said~~ conflicting sets of <sup>are</sup> apparatus use information ~~is~~ transmitted to a display means, and said display means displays said conflicting sets of apparatus use information.

28. A method for apparatus use, as claimed in Claim A ~~26 or~~ 27, characterized in that, if said information of impossibility to store is received, either of the

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conflicting sets of apparatus use information is given priority.

A 29. A method for apparatus use, as claimed in ~~any one~~  
A <sup>claim</sup> ~~of Claims 24 through 28~~, characterized in that said  
apparatus use information is read out, and apparatus use  
information that has been read out is altered.

A 30. A method for apparatus use, as claimed in ~~any one~~  
A <sup>claim</sup> ~~of Claims 21 through 29~~, characterized in that, when  
requesting storage of said apparatus use information,  
information is transmitted which contains at least the  
starting time of said second AV apparatus and the ending  
time of the intended use of said second AV apparatus.

A 31. An AV ~~apparatus~~ system consisting of a plurality  
of bus-connected AV apparatuses, characterized in that:

a first AV apparatus out of said AV apparatuses  
transmits to a second AV apparatus, to or from which the  
first AV apparatus intends to transmit or receive video  
information or audio information via said bus, apparatus  
use information indicating the intended use of the second  
AV apparatus, and

said second AV apparatus, if the use indicated by said  
apparatus use information is possible, stores said  
apparatus use information or, if the use of the bus indicated  
by said apparatus use information is impossible, transmits

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information of the impossibility to use the bus to said first AV apparatus via the bus.

A 32. An AV ~~apparatus~~ system consisting of a plurality of bus-connected AV apparatuses, characterized in that:

if the system configuration is altered by the new addition of or removal of any AV apparatus,

a first AV apparatus out of said AV apparatus system reads out apparatus use information it stores, and

on the basis of apparatus use information, at least one second AV apparatus transmitting or receiving video signals or audio signals to or from the first AV apparatus is checked for the possibility or impossibility of the use indicated by said apparatus use information.

A 33. An AV ~~apparatus~~ system, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim 32, characterized in that said apparatus use information is deleted if the use indicated by said apparatus use information is impossible.

A 34. An AV ~~apparatus~~ system, as <sup>claimed</sup> ~~stated~~ in Claim 31, 32 or 33, characterized in that said plurality of AV apparatuses performs time adjustment.

A 35. An AV ~~apparatus~~ system, as <sup>claimed in claim</sup> ~~stated in any of Claims~~ 31 through 34, characterized in that said apparatus use information is information containing at least the ID of said second AV apparatus, the starting time of said second

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AV apparatus and the ending time of the intended use of said second AV apparatus.

36. An AV apparatus characterized in that it is provided with a means for setting information on the intended use of <sup>another</sup> ~~any other~~ AV apparatus, and ~~a~~ means for <sup>to determine</sup> checking with said other AV apparatus via a bus whether or not the use indicated by said information is possible, wherein:

if the use indicated by said information is impossible, information indicating the impossibility is displayed on a display means.

37. A method for apparatus use characterized in that information on the intended use of any other AV apparatus is set, and the possibility or impossibility of the use indicated by said information is checked with <sup>another</sup> ~~said other~~ AV apparatus via a bus, and

if the use indicated by said information is impossible, information indicating the impossibility is displayed.

38. An AV ~~apparatus~~ system consisting of a plurality of bus-connected AV apparatuses, characterized in that:

apparatus use information pertaining to a first AV apparatus out of said AV apparatuses is stored by said first AV apparatus and at least one second apparatus intending to

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transmit or receive video information or audio information to or from said first AV apparatus, and

when a third AV apparatus is to transmit or receive video information or audio information to or from said first AV apparatus or said second AV apparatus, the state of use of said first AV apparatus and said second AV apparatus is A grasped by inquiring of only <sup>one</sup> ~~either~~ of said first AV apparatus and second AV apparatus for said apparatus use information.

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